

HO-1061

Percilla & Charles Porter House

1505 Grooms Lane

Private

Description

The Percilla & Charles Porter House is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two bay frame structure with a two-story, two-bay by two-bay frame ell. It is covered with vinyl siding and has gable roofs with asphalt shingles; the main block ridge runs northeast-southwest, while the ell ridge runs northwest-southeast. There is a modern two-story addition on the northeast side of the ell, with a large one-story addition to the northeast of it. There is an interior brick chimney on the main-block ridge, just north of center. The southeast elevation has a center entrance with sidelights and two-light transom, and it is flanked by paired two-over-two sash to each side. There is a three-bay porch with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles, supported by four square posts with jig-sawn brackets. There is a cross-gable in the center, with a lancet-shaped two-over-two sash. The southwest elevation of the main block has two typical sash on both the first and second stories, and a lancet-shaped two-over-two sash in the gable end. The ell is set back from the southeast plane of the main block. The northeast elevation of the main block is identical to the southwest.

Significance

The Percilla & Charles Porter House sits on lots three and four of the subdivision of Gertrude and Edward Benzinger's property. This subdivision was to be called, appropriately enough, Woodstock Heights. The lots were sold to Percilla Porter in 1896 for \$140. It seems likely that the existing house was built by the Porters at this time. The house is similar to the Cavey Family House (HO-1055), which was built c. 1896-97, being an I-house, but with two windows on each story of the gable ends, rather than the more usual one window. The cross gable was a popular feature of these houses at this time, and often had a decorative window sash, as can be seen here. This window was also used in both gable ends to add a little more refinement, and the porch was decorated with brackets, as well. The use of paired sash on the first story façade is unusual, but is another feature the Cavey and Porter houses have in common. The siting of these two houses is also the same, with the front not facing the street, but set facing southeast. The similarities of these two houses suggest either that they had the same builder, or that was became the model for the other. Nothing is known about Charles Porter at this time, but he was dead by 1913, when Percilla sold their house to Sallie Reid.

Inventory No. HO-1061

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Percilla & Charles Porter House

other

2. Location

street and number 1505 Grooms Lane _____ not for publication

city, town	Woodstock	vicinity
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county	Howard
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3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Robert & Diane Worley
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street and number 1505 Grooms Lane

telephone

city, town	Woodstock	state	MD	zip code	21163
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse	liber	2390	folio	423
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city, town	Ellicott City	tax map	10	tax parcel	31	tax ID number
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category

_____ district
 X building(s)
_____ structure
_____ site
_____ object

Ownership

_____ public
 X private
 _____ both

Current Function

<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1061

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☒ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Percilla & Charles Porter House is located at 1505 Grooms Lane, in Woodstock, in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The house is located on the northeast side of the road and faces southeast, toward the neighboring lot. The lot is generally flat.

The house is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay by two bay frame structure with a two-story, two-bay by two-bay frame ell. It is covered with vinyl siding and has gable roofs with asphalt shingles; the main block ridge runs northeast-southwest, while the ell ridge runs northwest-southeast. There is a modern two-story addition on the northeast side of the ell, with a large one-story addition to the northeast of it. There is an interior brick chimney on the main-block ridge, just north of center.

The southeast elevation has a center entrance with sidelights and two-light transom, and it is flanked by paired two-over-two sash to each side. There is a three-bay porch with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles, supported by four square posts with jig-sawn brackets. The porch railing is modern. The second story has three single two-over-two sash, which are typical for this building. There is a cross-gable in the center, with a lancet-shaped two-over-two sash. The house has a box cornice with returns.

The southwest elevation of the main block has two typical sash on both the first and second stories, and a lancet-shaped two-over-two sash in the gable end. The ell is set back from the southeast plane of the main block about 18 inches. The first story of the ell has a typical window in the west bay and a door in the south bay. The second story has two typical windows. The ell also has a box cornice with returns.

The northwest elevation of the ell has a typical window in the north bay of the first story and a typical window in the west bay of the second story, with no opening in the other bays or the gable end. The northeast elevation of the main block has two typical sash on both the first and second stories, and a lancet-shaped two-over-two sash in the gable end.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1061

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1896-97

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Percilla & Charles Porter House sits on lots three and four of the subdivision of Gertrude and Edward Benzinger's property. The Benzingers hired Ellicott City civil engineer John Denton to survey and plat ten lots on an elevated plateau overlooking the village of Woodstock and Woodstock College, across the river in Baltimore County. This subdivision was to be called, appropriately enough, Woodstock Heights. The lots were first sold in 1895 to Maurice Quill, who was trying to obtain the postmaster position for Woodstock, apparently unsuccessfully. He then sold the two lots, of just over three acres, to Percilla Porter in 1896 for \$140. It seems likely that the existing house was built by the Porters at this time. The house is similar to the Cavey Family House (HO-1055), which was built c. 1896-97, being an I-house, but with two windows on each story of the gable ends, rather than the more usual one window. The cross gable was a popular feature of these houses at this time, and often had a decorative window sash, as can be seen here. This window was also used in both gable ends to add a little more refinement, and the porch was decorated with brackets, as well. The use of paired sash on the first story façade is unusual, but is another feature the Cavey and Porter houses have in common. The siting of these two houses is also the same, with the front not facing the street, but set facing southeast. It is not clear whether this was intended to catch more of the sun, or if there is some other, as yet unknown, reason; regardless, it is not common in central Maryland by this time. The similarities of these two houses suggest either that they had the same builder, or that was became the model for the other.

Nothing is known about Charles Porter at this time, but he was dead by 1913, when Percilla sold their house to Sallie Reid. She and her husband moved to Washington, D. C. and sold the house in 1921 for \$1,650, the first evidence to confirm the existence of the building. In 1925 the house was bought by John and Mary Mattoon, and they owned it for the next 40 plus years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1061

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.0296 A
Acreage of historical setting 3.1 A
Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 10, parcel 31, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

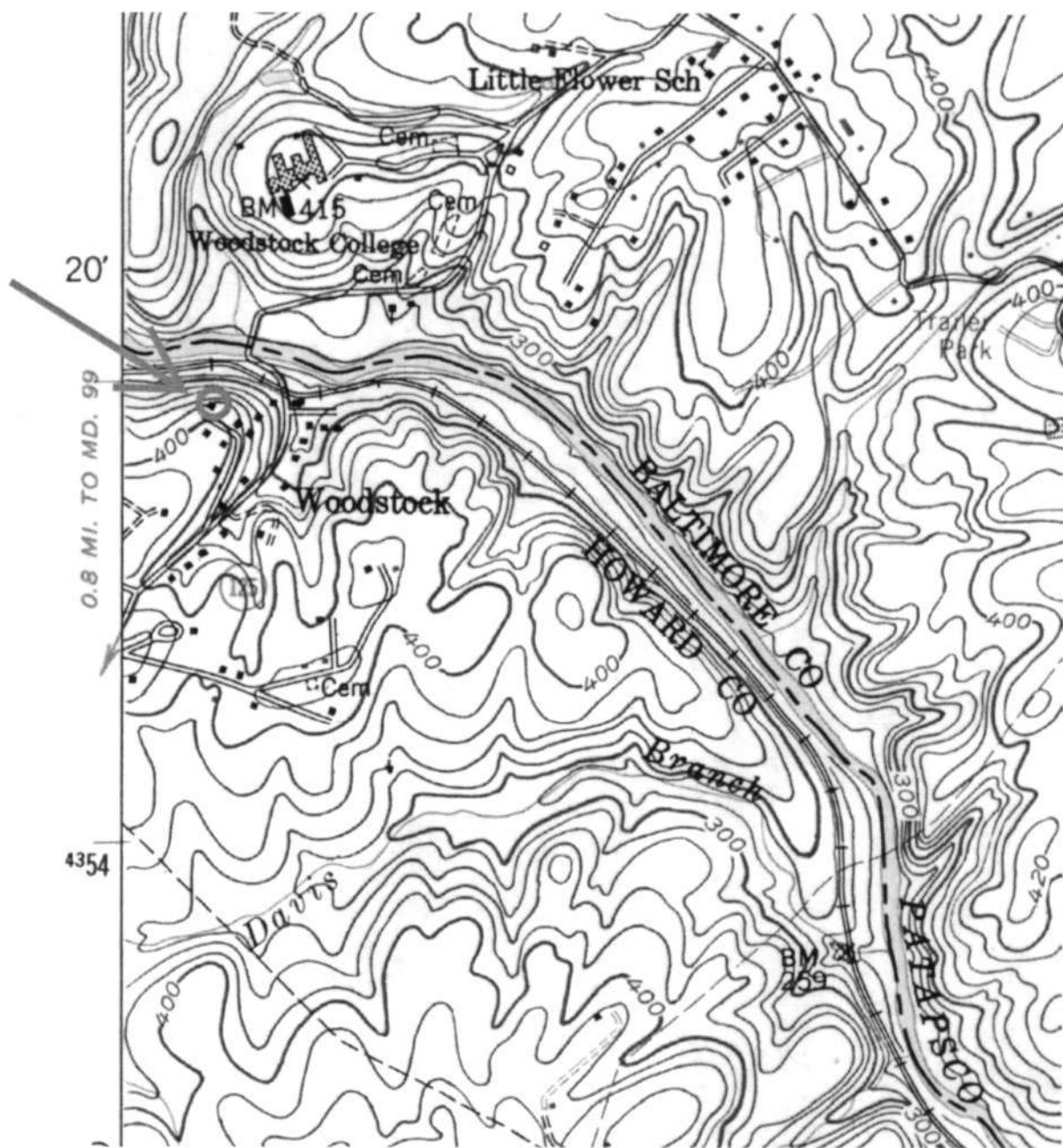
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	November 2011
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



HO-1061
Percilla & Charles Porter House
1505 Grooms Lane
Ellicott City quad

HO-1061
Percilla & Charles Porter House
1505 Grooms Lane
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1061_2011-11-02_01
Southwest & southeast elevations

HO-1061_2011-11-02_02
Northwest & southwest elevations



HC-1061

Percilla + Charles Porter House

1505 Grooms Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Southwest + southeast elevations

1 of 2



HO-1061

Percilla & Charles Porter House

1505 Grooms Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Northwest & Southwest elevations

2 of 2